



County of Los Angeles
Sheriff's Department Headquarters
4700 Ramona Boulevard
Monterey Park, California 91754-2169



LEROY D. BACA, SHERIFF

May 15, 2007

County of Los Angeles
Civil Grand Jury
Clara Shortridge Foltz Criminal Justice Center
210 West Temple Street, Room 11-506
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Members of the Grand Jury:

**UPDATED RESPONSE TO THE FINAL REPORT OF THE 2005-06
LOS ANGELES COUNTY CIVIL GRAND JURY**

Attached is the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department's updated response to the 2005-06 Grand Jury Report's recommendations. The updated areas of interest include the Jails Committee and Emergency Communications.

Should you have questions regarding our response, please contact Commander Thomas Laing, of my office, at (323) 526-5000.

Sincerely,

LEROY D. BACA
SHERIFF

**UPDATED RESPONSE TO THE 2005-2006 GRAND JURY'S FINAL REPORT
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES - SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT
EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION, ARE WE READY?**

RECOMMENDATION NO. 9 (Technical Services Division)

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (Department) and Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) should ensure the completion of Phase II of the Los Angeles Regional Tactical Communication System (LARTCS).

RESPONSE

This recommendation addresses the build out of the shared channel phase of the LARTCS. KBL Consulting was retained to validate and research the original concept. KBL Consulting reports that, while seemingly simple in concept, this system is spread across four public safety radio spectrums, is unique, and does not exist anywhere in the world. As such, the design and requirements portion of the Request for Proposal has moved the project back approximately six months. We now expect to sign final contracts in January 2008 and will take approximately 12-18 months to complete the project.

The necessary bid documents for the Urban Area Strategic Initiative (UASI) grant for placing radio gateways in Northern Los Angeles County is running concurrently with the shared channel project. We expect to release a bid during July 2007 with completion of the project in January 2008.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 10 (Emergency Operations Bureau)

The Los Angeles County Fire Department Chief (LACoFD), The Los Angeles Fire Department Chief (LAFD), LAPD, and the Department should continue to pursue the adoption of promising communication technology.

RESPONSE

The Department agrees completely with the recommendation of the Civil Grand Jury and is actively pursuing interoperable communications with the agencies mentioned and additionally, with Long Beach Police Department and the Long Beach Fire Department. Using the Homeland Security Grant process, which has emphasized regional approaches to problems, we have enhanced the Los Angeles Regional Common Operational Picture Program (LARCOPP) by expanding our involvement. We have created two mobile command posts that incorporate the Future Concepts technology and added three additional tactical response vehicles utilizing their technology. All of these vehicles are deployed with the Operational Area in mind, and are available for future mutual aid responses.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 12 (Technical Services Division)

When Los Angeles City and County purchase new equipment, bid documents should require suppliers to offer maintenance, parts, training, and related services throughout the life of the system.

RESPONSE

The Request For Proposal (RFP) for the Consolidated Fire/Sheriff Communications System (CFSCS) has been delayed pending a requirement study by the County's consultant in relation to the Los Angeles Regional Interoperability Community System (LA-RICS). The requirement study and the development of the RFP should be completed between December 2007 and January 2008. All of the issues addressed in the recommendation will be considered during the development of the RFP.

**RESPONSE TO THE 2005-2006 GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES-SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT
UPDATE FOR JAIL OPERATIONS**

RECOMMENDATION NO. 4

The Department should adopt the use of Radio Frequency Identification (RFI) Tags or other appropriate methods to track prisoners within the County jail system.

RESPONSE

The Department has made the decision not to proceed with the RFI program. The Correctional Innovative Technology Unit is currently researching the replacement of the Automated Justice Information System (AJIS) and incorporating Digital Television into Men's Central Jail (MCJ). With Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) becoming outdated, the use of Digital Television is an open system unlike CCTV. The first phase of this program would be to install the Digital Television throughout the common areas of MCJ, such as the hallways and dorms.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 5

The Department should expand all facilities in the County as well as its plan to move inmates to facilities more appropriate to the level of their crimes.

RESPONSE

High security inmates from MCJ and North County Correctional Facility (NCCF) have been relocated to Tower 2 of the Twin Towers Correctional Facility (TTCF). This reduces overcrowding at both facilities. Plans to refurbish Sybil Brand Institute have been authorized and plans are being established to create a new facility at the Pitchess Detention Center.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 6

The Department should implement the Telemedicine Program throughout the County jail system.

RESPONSE:

Training for the Telemedicine Program has already occurred and pilot programs are currently underway at the Century Regional Detention Facility (CRDF) and TTCF.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 9 (Field Operations Region III)

The 2005-2006 Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury recommends the Department correct deficiencies in the sobering cells at the Walnut Sheriff's Station and Lakewood Sheriff's Station.

RESPONSE

The Department has currently received bids from corporations that specialize in the manufacturing of sobering cells. The Department has submitted a requisition to Internal Services Division (ISD). The funding has been approved to complete the modifications at both the Walnut and Lakewood Sheriff's Station's sobering cells. It is anticipated that the completion of both sobering cells should take place prior to July 1, 2007.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 13 (Court Services Division)

The Department should address the safety issues in the Inglewood Juvenile Court.

RESPONSE

The Grand Jury was concerned about the non-contact interview area in the Inglewood Juvenile Court. The interview area has no glass between the interviewer and interviewee.

UPDATE FOR JAIL OPERATIONS

Page 4

The Los Angeles County Probation Department has been given a copy of the report and informed of the Grand Jury's concerns. Representatives of the Probation Department informed our Department that they would take it under advisement.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 17 (Field Operations Region II)

The Department should close the Lennox Station and replace it with a larger and more secure facility.

RESPONSE

Plans for the new "Athens Sheriff's Station," which will be located at Imperial Highway and Normandie Avenue, have been approved. Construction is scheduled to begin in June 2007. The projected construction time is eighteen (18) months.

The current Lennox Sheriff's Station site will be refurbished to house other Los Angeles County Sheriff's units; however, the particular units have not been determined.